

the English, but for short periods it is dearer. The Mont de Piété of Paris also makes no loans of less than 3*fr.*, and, therefore, according to its method of valuing pledges, it stands to reason that much of the poor man's property must be excluded altogether.

But the charges of the continental Monts de Piété vary. In some parts of France they are as high as 15 and even 18 per cent. In Brussels, the interest is 15 per cent. on small loans, and 12 per cent. on large, exclusive of commission-fees; and yet the net profits are very small.

In conclusion I may add, that the scheme which "Quondam" is now advancing is no novelty. A Bill for the establishment of Charitable Pawn Offices was, in the year 1843, brought before the House of Lords, and referred to a select committee, which, after careful investigation, reported unfavourably, and the Bill was abandoned. The pawn-brokers cannot suffer from such institutions, which would stand no chance if exposed to open competition; but it is only fair that the public should understand these things, and that their minds should be disabused from the misrepresentations with which this question is commonly invested. BARDI.

Books.

Instructions for Cleaning, Repairing, &c., Oil Paintings. By HENRY MOGFORD. Third Edition. London: Winsor and Newton. 1851.

THIS is a very sensible little volume, containing, in addition to practical instructions for cleaning, lining, and restoring paintings, some remarks on the distribution of works of art in houses and galleries, their care and preservation. Mr. Mogford has given long study to works of art.

The Crystal Palace—its Architectural History and Constructive Marvels. By PETER BERYN and CHARLES FOWLER, Jun. Gilbert: Paternoster-row. 1851.

THE connection of Messrs. Beryn and C. Fowler with this undertaking during the greater part of its progress, constitutes the special claim of this volume to attention on a subject on which so much has already been said and written. They are thus in a position to trace, in a more detailed and consecutive manner than others have done, the history of the design and execution of the building up to the period of its completion. The volume is profusely illustrated with engravings, amongst which are the two designs selected by the committee of the Royal Commissioners previous to the adoption of Mr. Paxton's, namely, that of Mons. Hector Horeau, and that of Messrs. R. and T. Turner; as well as the committee's own design. Having ourselves already said much from time to time on the subject of the present building, it is unnecessary to re-enter into any of the details here consecutively arranged; but we will quote the following portion of the introductory matter:—

"A great deal has been lately said upon the want of distinctive character in almost all the buildings of the present day; and it is certainly a striking fact that in scarcely any of our important modern structures does the exterior appearance in any way lead the spectator to form an idea of the purposes or arrangement of the interior, the former being apparently governed by fancy, or the fashion for some particular style, while the latter only is accommodated to the peculiar requirements of the case. Thus we have porticoes which do not shelter from the weather, or in which no one is allowed to walk: Venetian palaces appear piled upon a substructure of plate-glass: baronial castles prove to be model prisons; and richly-decorated mansions, from the time of "Good Queen Bess," or fanciful Italian villas, are made to serve for the accommodation of paupers.

The ancients appear to have been more careful in this respect, so that the form and external arrangement afforded in most cases a ready key to the purposes of their structures. Their temples, their fora, theatres and amphitheatres, baths, and other public edifices, seem each to have been stamped with their own characteristic features, at the same time without in any way producing a monotonous uniformity among the different examples of the same class of building.

Now, if this criterion of excellence be applied to the remarkable building recently erected in Hyde Park, it will be found that the constructive arrangement of the interior is plainly expressed without, and it must be conceded that it possesses at least those elements of beauty arising from consistency and simplicity which, in combination with its vast size, give it also that of grandeur. That it is faultless it would be needless to assert, or to imagine that, from its example, a new style of architecture will originate; but that it is admirably suited to its purpose,—that it is a remarkable specimen of the constructive skill of this country, and that it will certainly form one of the most interesting objects of the Great Exhibition by which it has been called into being, if not the most interesting of all, must, we think, be admitted by all candid observers."

Although it is no part of the object of the work to arraign any act of those in authority, some of the objections that we were compelled to make to the report of the building-committee on the designs that were sent in, are fairly quoted from our pages.

The whole makes an exceedingly interesting and instructive volume, and is very creditable to both authors and publishers.

Smithfield and Newgate Markets. By the Hon. FREDERICK BYNG. James Ridgway, Piccadilly. 1851.

THE aim of this little pamphlet is, by a general review of the question at issue, to invite the attention of members of Parliament and other influential parties, at this favourable moment, to the great importance of the subject; and to put the general public in possession of such facts as will help them to decide whether the Government ought or ought not to be supported in their bold attempt to abolish the existing state of things, and replace it by arrangements of an entirely different description. Mr. Byng was one of the members of the late Royal Commission to inquire into, and report on, the meat markets of the metropolis, and, privately as well as officially, he spared neither time nor trouble to make himself master of the subject. He is therefore a highly competent authority, and entitled to parliamentary as well as public attention.

A Geological Inquiry respecting the Water-bearing Strata of the Country around London, with reference especially to the Water Supply of the Metropolis, and including some remarks on Springs. By JOSEPH PRIZETWICH, Jun., F.G.S., &c. John Van Voorst, Paternoster Row. 1851.

IN this strictly geological work the author hopes that the general details given may direct attention to the probability of obtaining at London, by means of a fresh system of deeper Artesian wells, a very much larger and better supply of water than that furnished by those which exist at present. Besides an examination of the lower tertiary strata and the chalk whence the present order of Artesian wells in London and its vicinity draw their supplies, the author extends his inquiry to the strata beneath the chalk, with a view to ascertain whether the lower cretaceous series may not be available as new sources of water-supply. By a comparison of the volumes and capacities of these tertiary and secondary formations he endeavours to show that the sources which there is every probability of finding in the upper and lower greensands beneath London, would furnish a quantity of water sufficient, possibly, for the supply of the metropolis; or, at all events, so large as to constitute an important auxiliary-supply derivable from comparatively moderate depths, and rising to a height much above that of the general level of the ground in London.

No Artesian wells in London have as yet been carried through the chalk: this is therefore something like the opening up of new

sources altogether; and should experiment prove the truth of this author's theoretical views, the objections of many to the Artesian well projects may be obviated. We confess, however, to great doubts on the subject.

We regard this work, nevertheless, as a fine instance of the use of theory in turning attention to facts, and in leading experiment into new and feasible channels; and should the generally unfavourable opinion entertained regarding Artesian wells as a means of public supply be hereby modified or altogether obviated, the result will redound to the honour of geology as well as of its interpreter, and show to practical men more forcibly than ever, the importance to them of a general knowledge of this interesting science.

Reports and Papers read at the Meetings of the Architectural Societies of the Archdeaconry of Northampton, the Counties of York and Lincoln, and of the Architectural and Archaeological Societies of Bedfordshire and St. Albans—during the year 1850. Sold by J. Masters, 33, Aldergate-street; Bell, 168, Fleet-street; and J. H. Parker, &c.

THIS goodly volume affords such a proof of the advantage of combined action, that we doubt not it will constitute an example that will lead to the issue of similar volumes by other societies throughout the country. Besides the special reports of the associate societies, which, exclusive of papers, occupy but a small portion of the whole, there are upwards of 200 pages devoted to papers, "On the Chicheley Days of Higham Ferrers," "On Tile Pavements, especially that of Higham Ferrers Church," "On the Ancient Stone Offertory Box in Bridlington Church," "On Labourers' Cottages," "On Heraldry, as an Architectural Decoration, suggested by a passage in Mr. Ruskin's Seven Lamps of Architecture," "On the Churches of Stamford," "On Monuments in Church-yards," "On the Progressive Development of Geometrical Tracery, and the Claims of the Geometrical to be treated as a distinct Style," "On the Works now in Progress at St. Peter's, Northampton," "On Peculiarities of Norfolk Churches," "On Stained Glass," "On Low-side Windows," "On the Saxon Church of All Saints, Brighthelmston," "On the Churches in the neighbourhood of Louth," "On the Ecclesiastical Architecture of Bedford," "On some Seals of Bedfordshire," "On Ancient Relics collected in Bedfordshire," "On the Basilicas of Christian Rome," "On Conventual Arrangements," "On Lombardic Inscriptions on Monuments in Bedfordshire," "On Relics preserved in a Church at Cologne," and "On a Seal formed of bone and found at St. Alban's."

The Travellers' Library: 1. Warren Hastings, By THOMAS BABINGTON MACAULAY; 2. Lord Clive, by the same; 3. London in 1850-51, from the "Geographical Dictionary" of J. R. McCulloch. London: Longman, Brown, Green, and Longmans. 1851.

THE essays of Mr. Macaulay need no recommendation from us. Each part of this "Library" is a separate purchase, at very small cost; and the well-timed issue of a well-written article or essay on London is likely to meet with many "travellers" inclined to exchange their shillings for a pleasant diet of mental food of so appropriate a description.

METROPOLITAN PEEL STATUS.—At a meeting held on Tuesday week at the Alliance Life Assurance Office, Sir Moses Montefiore, Bart., in the chair, it was determined that a committee be appointed, consisting of twelve members; that the memorial be a bronze statue, ten feet in height; that the amount to be paid for it be 2,000*l.*; and that the committee have the appointment of a sculptor. With permission of the Lord Mayor, the models are to be sent to the Mansion-house, and to be considered, and a site determined, on 16th June. The site, it is believed, will be either at the west end of Cheapside, or at the east end of the Royal Exchange.